



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1647  
Examiner : Robert S. Landsman  
Serial No. : 09/704,319  
Filed : November 2, 2000  
Inventors : Hiroo Kumagai  
: Takao Saruta  
Title : METHOD FOR  
: EXAMINING  
: DISEASE



PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 1514-00  
Confirmation No.: 4918

Dated: April 2, 2003

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated October 21, 2002, Applicants amend as follows:

In the Claims (Marked-Up Version)

1. (Twice Amended) A method for examining a pruritic disease to diagnose opioid-based pruritis, comprising the steps of:

measuring concentrations of ~~various types of opioid peptides~~  $\kappa$ -opioid peptides and at least one of  $\delta$ -opioid peptides,  $\mu$ -opioid peptides, and nociceptin in blood cells, body fluid, or tissue, and calculating the ratio of said concentrations ~~to thereby determine whether opioids are involved in the disease~~ of at least one of  $\delta$ -opioid peptides,  $\mu$ -opioid peptides, and nociceptin to the concentration of  $\kappa$ -opioid peptides,

comparing said calculated ratio to a corresponding ratio in non-pruritic patients; and  
diagnosing opioid-based pruritis where said calculated ratio is greater than said  
corresponding ratio.

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